Quality of Labour

1716. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps for the improvement of the quality of labour in order to improve the productivity; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) and (b) Improvement in quality of labour with a view to increase the productivity envisages skill development retraining, redeployment, updating knowledge-base of worker teachers, social security measures, creation of healthy work environment etc. Various labour laws and schemes are geared towards attainment of these objectives.

Placements in Iraq through recruitment agents

1717. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that numerous job seekers in India especially in Mumbai are trying for their placements in Iraq through recruitment agents;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these recruitment agents are approved by Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Does not arise.

Job seekers in urban areas

†1718. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether Government have made an assessment of the number of people seeking employment in urban areas of the country;

(b) if so, the total number of unemployed persons in urban areas togetherwith the number of persons out of them who are XII class passed or more;

(c) the names of the top ten States of the country with the highest number of unemployed persons; and

(d) the percentage of the unemployed persons to the total number of job seekers in the respective States?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) There are around 4.12 crore job seekers registered with the employment exchanges in the country. Out of these, around 42% are in the urban area.

(b) Number of jobseekers having XII class passed and above qualifications as on 31-12-2002 (latest available) were around 1.28 crore.

(c) Top ten States with highest number of job seekers as on 30th April, 2004 were West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Assam and Jharkhand.

(d) Based on the survey conducted on activity status of jobseekers and report published in 1990, the percentage of unemployed persons to the jobseekers in these States is given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Percentage of unemployed persons among the job seekers registered in the employment exchanges in different states

Sl. No.	State	Percentage of unemployed persons
1.	West Bengal	44.06
2.	Tamil Nadu	69.91
3.	Maharashtra	52.26
4.	Kerala	63.75
5.	Andhra Pradesh	55.98
6.	Madhya Pradesh	43.71
7.	Uttar Pradesh	61.65

Sl. No.	State	Percentage of unemployed persons
8	Bihar*	70.75
9.	Assam	61 51
10.	Jharkhand	

Note

*Includes information in respect of Jharkhand

Unemployment problem

†1719. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH.

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the solution to the problem of severe unemployment prevailing in the rural areas of the country lies in the industrial development;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether any incentive scheme has been formulated by Government to give preference to the use of labour oriented technique in establishment of industrial units in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the number of additional employment likely to be created in this sector during the year 2004-05?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) , (b) and (e) The Tenth Plan document outlines the approach and strategy of the Government to tackle the problem of severe unemployment in the country. Major areas identified for the purpose include Agriculture, Irrigation, Agro Forestry, Small and Medium Enterprises, Information and Communication Technology, Tourism and other services. Creation of around one crore employment opportunities per year, on an average is being targeted during each year of the Tenth Plan *i.e.* 2002—07.

(c) Ministry of Labour and Employment is not aware of any such scheme.

(d) Does not arise.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi